Winthrop Butler Papers

Finding Aid

71.2009.085.05865

LINCOLN LIBRARY
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at Allen County Public Library

WINTHROP BUTLER PAPERS
13 folders; 0.2 cubic feet

Biographical Note

Winthrop Butler (1838-1907) was born in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, the son of Martha Allen (Robinson) and Matthew P. Butler. His medical studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War. He was appointed as an Acting Assistant Surgeon in the Union Navy in 1862, serving first on the US Ship *William G. Anderson* and later on the US Sloop *Saratoga*. After the war, Butler completed his medical education and graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1866. In 1868 he established a practice in Martha's Vineyard, where he practiced until his retirement in 1903. He died four years later.

Provenance

This collection of medical documents related to Acting Assistant Surgeon Winthrop Butler's service on the US Sloop *Saratoga*, 1864-1865, was donated to the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne (now the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection) in 1970 by Henry Clark Ottiwell of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. Mr. Ottiwell was Winthrop Butler's nephew; he had come into possession of the papers upon the death of his aunt, Adelaide Butler.

Scope and Content

The Winthrop Butler Collection comprises 12 items, including Butler's 1862 appointment and 1865 discharge documents, both signed by Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles. The most extensive document is Butler's report on the *Saratoga*'s August 3rd raid on a meeting of men in McIntosh County, Georgia, "for the purpose of forming themselves into a coast guard" to defend the area from Union attack. The expedition captured 26 prisoners and 22 horses, destroyed two bridges, and burned the encampment intended to house the coast guard. Butler accompanied the expedition as a surgeon and submitted his report to his commander George M. Colvocoresses on August 5th. The remaining documents include requisition forms, supply lists, a death certificate, and correspondence.

Folder List

Folder	Item Number
Assistant Surgeon Appointment	71200908305006
William Whelan to Winthrop Butler	71200908300881
Surgeon's Bill	71200908300890
Report from Winthrop Butler to George M. Colvocoresses	71200908300882
Return of Stores List	71200908300887
Requisition Form, January 13, 1865	71200908300888
William A. Buckingham to Winthrop Butler	71200908300884
Requisition and Receipt for Whiskey	71200908300886
Certificate of Death for Jonathan S. Blaney	71200908300889
Requisition Form, May 22, 1865	71200908300891
Report of the Sick	71200908300892
Discharge of Winthrop Butler	71200908300893

The collection can be viewed online at:
http://contentdm.acpl.lib.in.us/digital/collection/p16089coll38/search/searchterm/winthrop%20butler%20papers

See also:
"List of Prisoners" submitted by George M. Colvocoresses following the McIntosh County, Georgia, raid. Item number 71200908300883.

Jane E. Gastineau, September 2017